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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 673
By Graves

A RESOLUTION to recognize and thank the Japanese students of Katsura High School in Tsuru, Japan and the American students from Hendersonville High School and Beech High School in Sumner County for their stellar participation in the Tsuru Friendship Community Cultural Exchange Program.

WHEREAS, Tsuru Friendship Community Cultural Exchange Program, which includes the sister high school program agreement, was created in 1990 by joint agreement of Katsura High School in Tsuru, Japan, Beech High School and Hendersonville High School, in Sumner County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the Tsuru Community Friendship Cultural Exchange Program, three groups of Beech and Hendersonville students and teachers have visited Katsura and this present group of Japanese students is the fourth group to visit the United States from Katsura; and

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WHEREAS, the students of Katsura High School have energetically embraced this opportunity to share their knowledge about their own rich culture with the good people of Hendersonville; and

WHEREAS, in July 2001, another group of high school students from Hendersonville and Beech will visit Katsura in Tsuru, Japan, which is Hendersonville's Sister City; and

WHEREAS, the students from Japan attending Beech High School this year are: Kyoko Amari, Miki Furuya, Azusa Irikura, Michiko Ishii, Yukiko Itakura, Ayumi Kimura, Chihiro Kobayashi, Sakurako Kobayashi, Mayumi Noda, Daisuke Shinkai, Asuka Sugimoto, Asami Takimori, Kentaro Yoshino, and Teacher, Naoto Amemiya; and

WHEREAS, the students from Japan attending Hendersonville High School this year are: Mitsuka Fujimaki, Mayumi Hoshino, Ruriko Kobayashi, Ayumi Kagoshima, Tomoko Kurobe, Masato Miyano, Chie Omata, Etsako Watanabe, Makoto Watanabe, Ai Yamaguchi, Miho Yamamoto, Miho Yamamoto, Kaori Yanai, and Teacher, Ikuo Ono; and

WHEREAS, the community at large embraced this noble effort, which has been spearheaded by the honorable President Betsey Wedikend, president of Tsuru Friendship Community; and

WHEREAS, one worthwhile goal of the Tsuru Friendship Community is to teach the differences between the cultures and languages of Japan and the United States; and

WHEREAS, students from both countries stay with host families in the respective communities, as do their adult chaperones; and

WHEREAS, the high school student exchange coordinator is Sue Stein of Hendersonville, who has done an outstanding job; and

WHEREAS, it is truly refreshing to see our dedicated young people of Tennessee embrace other cultures, especially since this particular group of Japanese Exchange Students have been most gracious and honorable representatives of their great and prosperous nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we recognize, honor, and congratulate the Japanese students of Katsura High School from Tsuru, Japan, and the American students from Hendersonville High School and Beech High School in Sumner County, Tennessee, for their successful completion of another year of the Cultural Exchange Program known as "Tsuru Friendship Community," and thank them for sharing the best of their unique cultures with each other. These fine, young people are truly the brightest and most energetic students of their respective nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.